

said rod between said two ends and a washer surrounding said rod between one end and said nut, wherein the rod has a hook on said one end, wherein the nut is tightened toward said one end after passing the rod through a hole of a sheet member, and wherein the sheet member is supported by sandwiching it between the hook, the washer and the nut.

14. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein the rod is passed through the hole from said thread.

15. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein the rod has a substantially square cross-section.

16. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein a threaded portion of the rod extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to that of the hook when the hook is brought into flush contact with the surface of the sheet member.

17. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein the hook points only in one direction.

18. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein an edge of the hook extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a threaded portion of the rod is beveled.

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19. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein a handle is provided on the other end of the rod.

20. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 19, wherein the handle is ring shaped.

21. (Twice Amended) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein the nut includes means allowing it to be screwed down by hand.

Please add the following new claim: